# Diversity & Inclusion Resources

Programs and Organisations at the Intersection of Sight Loss and Other Diverse Identities

## CNIB Programs

### Pride Connection

Intended for adults 18+ who are interested in meeting other members of the LGBTQ2S+ community who are also blind or partially sighted. This safe space offers an opportunity to connect with other LGBTQ2S+ participants across the country! The group will meet monthly to share common experiences, support one another, and discuss topics chosen by the group.

Day: Fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning January 2021

Time: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Eastern

Contact: [Tanis.Boardman@cnib.ca](mailto:Tanis.Boardman@cnib.ca)

### First Nations Group

To connect First Nations participants living in Northwestern Ontario with one another for mutual support and networking. This group also engages in cultural storytelling, lived experiences, traditions/familial traditions, experienced racial stereotyping, and challenges associated with being blind or partially sighted.

Pre-COVID, this program brought participants together for smudging ceremonies, drumming circles, BBQs, bannock making, clay modeling and (with funding) to record a Podcast. Moving forward, our goal as a group, is to offer these virtual sessions in Indigenous language (Ojibwe and Oji-Cree) to encourage broader participation from remote northern reserve communities, increase cultural inclusion, and raise awareness of CNIB and our programs and services.

Contact: [Tanis.Boardman@cnib.ca](mailto:Tanis.Boardman@cnib.ca)

### Black Voices United

Black voices united is an online group offered nationwide to individuals who identify as Black. The group is a safe space which gives members an opportunity to connect and freely discuss about topic matters that impact the Black community while applying the intersection of sight loss. The interactive group sessions run monthly with informative topics ranging from social justice issues, lifestyle and self-care. If you identify as Black and live with blindness, partial sight or are an ally to the sight loss community, we would love for you to join us.

Contact: [Bernard.akuoko@cnib.ca](mailto:Bernard.akuko@cnib.ca) and [Neisha.mitchell@cnib.ca](mailto:Neisha.mitchell@cnib.ca)

## External Groups and Organisations

### DEEN (Disability Empowerment Equality Network) Vision Network

<https://deensupportservices.ca/services/deen-vision-network/>

The DEEN Vision Network is a great place to virtually connect with a community of individuals who are blind or partially sighted from diverse backgrounds. We learn about and share things with peers with similar cultural experiences. We meet bimonthly to talk about daily living skills, vision technology and many other interesting topics. The group has predominately Muslim members but is open to persons of all faiths and diversities living with sight loss.

To join, email [info@deensupportservices.ca](mailto:info@deensupportservices.ca) or call 905-593-3461.

### Joy Beyond Vision Community (JBVC)

<https://www.joybeyondvision.ca/>

JBVC is a Christian faith-based organisation serving the vision loss community in English and Chinese. This includes peer support, Bible study and prayer meetings, as well as vocational training opportunities. JBVC is located in Toronto, with a satellite group in Vancouver.

Contact: Phone: (647) 558-JBVC (5282), or e-mail: [Info@jbvc.ca](mailto:Info@jbvc.ca)

### ASE Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disability

ASE is committed to working collectively with community organizations and institutions who serve Black Canadians with disabilities; specifically, organizations who are focused primarily on advancing Black peoples' lives and combating anti-Black racism. We are working to advance the overall well-being, economic engagement, and full participation of Black Canadians with Disabilities via advocacy for policy change, identifying research gaps across sectors and building a resource hub. Our mission is to use an intersectional approach to build collective partnerships with institutions, researchers, service providers and individuals across Canada to further identify gaps and continue building the capacity of our community.

If you would like more information or to be involved with ASE contact [outreach@asecommunityfoundation.com](mailto:outreach@asecommunityfoundation.com)

## Media

### What's the Difference Podcast

Jackie Rosen and Sarah Patel (Mizz Sarah)

What's the Difference Podcast features the stories of people living life with a wide variety of invisible disabilities, navigating the health care system, careers, family and romantic relationships. Created and hosted by Jackie Rosen, and co-hosted by Mizz Sarah with additional rotating co-hosts, the aim of the podcast is to promote advocacy, smash stigmas and put an end to ableism in mainstream culture.

[Listen on Apple Podcasts](https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/whats-the-difference-podcast/id1494643756)

### ****ReidMyMindRadio****

T. Reid

Stories and profiles of compelling people impacted by all degrees of vision loss and disability. Plus, Reid explores his own experiences becoming blind as an adult in his unique way pairing his words with audio and sound design.

[Listen on Apple Podcasts](https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/reidmymindradio/id1109751505)